



FACT SHEET

Alaska Region Operational Update – Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis (POW LLA) January 2019

Aligned with United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recent guidance to prioritize Forest Service projects that can be maintained during the ongoing lapse in federal funding, the Alaska Region is currently moving forward with several high-priority projects, one of which is the **Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis (POW LLA)**.

Alaska Region is utilizing prior year remaining and available federal funding to continue these priority projects during the federal furlough. A limited number of Forest Service employees, working in exempt status, have been called back to complete focused work to move the project forward in a timely manner. The region also continues to do work on a wide variety of programs - both with prior year funds (exempt) and to protect public health and safety (excepted). Examples include the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center, special use permitting, and the Mental Health Trust land exchange - in addition to POW LLA and Roadless.

Current Status

- The project is currently in an **Objection Review and Resolution Phase**.
- A prior scheduled Objection Resolution meeting in Klawock (on Jan. 23, 2019) has been postponed due to the complexity and number of objections received. A rescheduled meeting will be announced as soon as possible.
- Next steps include:
 - Finalizing any resolutions and incorporating them into the project record.
 - Issuing the Reviewing Officers response to the objections.
 - Approval of the project in the Record of Decision which may include instructions received from the Reviewing Officer, if any.
 - Issuance of the Final Record of Decision.
 - Implementation of activities will then be put into action following the Implementation Plan process through activity proposals brought forth by the public and the Forest Service.
 - Timelines may be adjusted as necessary and based on furlough environment.

Background

- The purpose of the POW LLA Project is to respond to the Forest Plan's multiple-use goals and objectives, while moving the project area toward the desired conditions in that Plan (USDA Forest Service 2016a, p. 2-1).
- A notice to object to the Final Environmental Impact Statement and a Draft Record of Decision were published in the Federal Register on Friday, Nov. 2, 2018, a revised objection notice was published on Nov 15, 2018, triggering the 45-day objection period starting on Nov. 16, 2018.
- The 45-day objection period closed on Dec. 31, 2018. A total of 15 objections were received.

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